

ETCOG HAPPENINGS

LOCAL REPORTS OF RED, WHITE, & YOU! VETERANS JOB FAIRS HELD STATEWIDE

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), in partnership with 28 local workforce development boards and the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) hosted veterans job fairs statewide on Nov. 14. TWC's Second Annual Hiring Red, White & You! campaign was a joint initiative supported by Gov. Rick Perry, Texas Medical Center surgeon and University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston professor Dr. James H. "Red" Duke Jr., and TVC to connect our returning veterans in Texas with employers who are hiring.

In Tyler, Harvey Convention Center hosted 81 employer booths which saw 119 Veterans and 452 other guests. The Longview event was held at the Workforce Solutions East Texas Center on High Street which served 69 Veterans, 104 other guests and 28 employer booths.

Last year's Hiring Red, White & You! job fairs attracted more than 12,000 veterans and 1,400 employers statewide, and resulted in approximately 2,800 hires by participating employers.



AREA AGENCY ON AGING BENEFITS COUNSELORS

The Area Agency on Aging is proud to announce staff members, Nellie Henry and Christy Fowler's, certification in Benefits Counseling. Nellie and Christy certified Benefits Counselors with the State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) and Health Information, Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP). ETCOG Benefits Counselors answer questions for seniors age 60+, caregivers, or for those individuals receiving Medicare regardless of age. With the recent Medicare Open Enrollment Period, from October 15th - December 7th, seniors were able to change or drop their Medicare prescription or advantage plan. ETCOG Benefits Counselors and volunteers conducted one-on-one assistance with 111 individuals, hosted 10 dedicated open enrollment events in East Texas, answered countless phone calls and reached an estimated 87,000 individuals through marketing efforts. To reach a Benefits Counselor, call toll free at 1-800-442-8845.

ETCOG EMPLOYEE SELECTED FOR MEDICAID & CHIP REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Juanita Beason, Certified Benefits Counselor for the East Texas Area Agency on Aging has been selected as a member of the Medicaid and CHIP Regional Advisory Committee for Tyler/East Texas. She has been designated to be a consumer advocate representative and will meet with the Medicaid and CHIP Regional Advisory Committee three times a year. The committee discusses the implementation of Medicaid managed care in Texas, seeks input from the public and provides recommendations to Health and Human Service Commission on the improvement of Medicaid managed care throughout Texas.

Juanita was chosen out of 17 applicants for one of six open positions. Congratulations, Juanita!

AAON COIL PRODUCTS, INC. HONORED AT TEXAS WORKFORCE CONFERENCE



AAON Coil Products, Inc. (AAON) received the Employer Award of Excellence for the Workforce Solutions East Texas (East Texas) area at the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) 17th Annual Texas Workforce Conference held Dec. 4-6 in San Antonio. The Employer Award of Excellence honors employers that are actively involved with their local workforce board and have made a positive impact on employers, workers and the community.

AAON designs, manufactures and sells semi-custom heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment for commercial and residential use. The company employs more than 380 employees at its East Texas facility, and is a top 15 employer for the city of Longview. AAON has been an active participant in the WorkKeys initiative for the East Texas board, working with the board's Longview Center and the Longview Economic Development Corp. to develop redesigned work flow processes for WorkKeys for job seekers and employers.

"The partnerships between our employers and our local workforce boards are so important in continuing to develop a skilled, well-trained workforce in Texas," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Hope Andrade. "I congratulate AAON Coil Products and Workforce Solutions East Texas for providing a great example of the power of those partnerships."

ETCOG AND THE MARSHALL DEPOT BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO HOLD RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13 FOR NEW ADA-COMPLIANT ELEVATOR LIFT AT THE HISTORIC MARSHALL DEPOT



East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) and the Marshall Depot Board of Directors cordially invite members of the public to attend a special ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the newly-completed ADA compliant elevator lift at the Marshall Depot on Friday, December 13, 2013 at 11:00am.

The brief ceremony will be held at the tunnel entrance to the historic Marshall Depot, which is on the south side of the Depot, adjacent to the parking lot. The Marshall Depot is located at 800 North Washington Street in downtown Marshall, Texas.

"The project to make the south entrance to the Marshall Depot ADA-compliant with a workable elevator lift for visitors to the Depot and those traveling on Amtrak has been a truly collaborative effort and many people should be thanked," stated John Hedrick, Director of Transportation for the East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG).

ETCOG received a \$109,846 grant from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and served as the fiscal agent for the grant which funded a major portion of the project.

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ETCOG is an Equal Opportunity Employer / Program. Auxiliary Aids and Services are available upon request, to individuals with disabilities. Relay Texas: 1-800-735-2989 (TTY); 1-800-735-2988 (Voice); 1-800-662-4954 (Español).

